

NEWSLETTER



ARBORETA & BOTANIC GARDENS

prepared by the public services division

April 10, 1974

ARBORETUM DIVISION

Twenty-three of the department's plant introductions are spring flowering and consequently can be appreciated best at this time. The long list includes the first introduction, Felicia amelloides 'Santa Anita' which was introduced in 1957. The most colorful introductions are the ground covers Osteospermum fruticosum 'Snow White' and 'Burgundy Mound' and the Arctotheca calendula. Among the most outstanding shrubs you will find Viburnum macrocephalum, Hibiscus huegelii, Pittosporum napaulense, Camellia japonica 'Mrs. D. W. Davis Descanso', and C. japonica 'John Anson Ford,' Dwarf Oleanders, Callistemon rosea, and C. pachyphyllus viridis which has not yet been put on the market. Some of these shrubs are planted in a half circle between the Garden of All Seasons and the demonstration turf plots. The most outstanding trees to be enjoyed now are the tabebuias and the eucalyptus. Be sure to see the Tabebuia ipigenosa on top of Tallac Knoll along with the many Tabebuia chrysotrichas that are planted along the grounds.

DESCANSO DIVISION

The daffodil show at Descanso on the 23rd and 24th of March attracted 6,272 people. If you have the time, come to the gardens and see the lilacs --they are almost at their peak of bloom.

Don Graf was honored by the Japanese community of Altadena-Pasadena at a dinner on March 16 for the work he has done with the Japanese boys in getting their merit and eagle badge ratings.

The voice coming from the superintendent's

office is that of Juliane Foes, a student worker. Juliane is attending Glendale College from where she will graduate in June.

Recently spotted at Descanso were a band of stellar jays, a flock of white-crowned sparrow, a bevy of varied thrush, a glamorine of wren-tit, and a columbine of thrasher. (Editor's note: If you say so, George.)

RESEARCH DIVISION

Through the generosity of botanic gardens and private collectors throughout the world, we now have a collection of forty-four species of carnivorous plants representing nine of the fifteen genera generally recognized by modern taxonomists. Jim Doty has been studying a little of their history, taking advantage of the fine collection of herbals in the library. For instance, Drosera rotundifolia, the most common sundew in the northern hemisphere, was well known in the 16th Century in Europe as a curative for asthma. In contrast to the European uses of the herb, a tribe of North American Indians used D. rotundifolia in a love potion. These groups of plants offer not only many interesting morphological developments in the design and formation of traps and snares, but also are very interesting in their physiological functions.

This year our Baldwin Bonanza will offer carnivorous plants for sale to the public for the first time.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

This is the beginning of salary negotiations where management and labor sit down at the bargaining table to discuss salaries and fringe benefits to be included in a new Memo of Understanding for July 1. Probably salary recommend-

ations will go to the Board of Supervisors some time in mid-May and the Board will set salaries sometime before July 1, 1974.

PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

The demand for Department publications continues to grow. Requests are now coming from public agencies in all parts of the state and a few from other parts of the country. We recently completed a run of 9200 Poisonous Plant brochures and currently are working on a run of 10,000 Home Vegetable Gardening and 7,500 Beneficial Insect brochures. Other reprintings will follow.

Tram tours have been restored at South Coast courtesy of County Mechanical who have lent us a tow-tractor while ours is being repaired. Speaking of tram tours, the tour at Descanso now includes a guided walk through the Hospitality House--art gallery and model kitchen--and adjoining Chinese Garden, thereby increasing the duration of that tour to 45 minutes. At the Arboretum, tram tours now include as a regular feature a guided walk in and around the Aquatic Garden.

Our thanks to County Communications who lent us two of the six horns we used in our public address setup for the Bonanza last Sunday. We also borrowed horns and cable from Descanso, but then we're always doing that. Thanks, Don, for getting everything together.

SOUTH COAST DIVISION

Dan Scott, a volunteer GMM with over 150 hours of work to his credit, has moved to Ventura. His help has been greatly appreciated and we are sure to miss him. Our appreciation also goes to Jennifer Armer, another volunteer. Jennifer has been helping out in the nursery section for the past several

months.

We were host to a spring flower show in March put on by the Gardeneers. "The Ides of March" opened, quite appropriately, on March 15 and drew quite a number of visitors and exhibitors March 14, 15, 16. Also well attended were the Garden Walk (over 100 visitors), the lecture, and the South Bay Bromeliad Associates Annual Meeting. All in all, March should be a real bonus month for attendance here.

Our tram tractor has been in Mechanical Department shops since mid-February for a much-needed overhaul, so Eric Brooks has really been getting his share of walking tours. Between tours and telephone calls for tour reservations, Eric is also keeping busy sanding the tram carts, preparing them for a bright new coat of paint.

Tony Gonzalez, Jennifer Armer, and Judy Elliott are all contributing to energy conservation. Tony often rides his 10-speed bicycle home--it's all down hill from here; Jennifer comes to the garden on a bicycle with an auxiliary engine to make climbing hills easier, and Judy has a new, candy-red Honda--70+ miles to the gallon--for commuting except on rainy days.

We are delighted to report that Dan Zorich is doing well and has been in for a short visit. He is not sure just when he can get back to work, but he is continuing to make a good recovery--and that's good news!